

Eastern Pre-Release Unit

2008 Drinking Water Quality Report

PWSID: 017 0006



Important Information about your Drinking Water:

Special points of interest:

- The water at Eastern Pre-Release Unit was tested for over 120 different compounds
- While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
- Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2008. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Last year more than 800 tests for over 120 compounds were conducted on the water at Eastern Pre-Release Unit. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility

and prepared this report. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Jay Janney** at **410-729-8350** or jjann@menv.com

The water for Eastern Pre-release Unit comes from two wells in the Aquia formation. After the water is pumped out of the well, we treat the water with a water softener and then add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. We also add a polyphosphate to inhibit corrosion. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water.

We want everyone to be informed about their water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the regulated drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past several years. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in

the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2008. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Eastern Pre-Release Unit Treated Water Quality Report 2008

Definitions				
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.			
Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter				
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter				
mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)				
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)				
Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Likely Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Flat Iron Road - Plant I.D. 01				
Arsenic	10 ppb	Range 6 ppb - 9 ppb	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2007 Testing)	4 ppm	0.26 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/l	2 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	4 mrem/yr	0.56 mrem/yr	0 mrem/yr	Decays of natural deposits
Barium (2007 Testing)	2 ppm	0.037 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Regulated at the Consumer's Tap				
Copper (2007 Testing)	1.3 ppm (action level)	90th percentile = 0.16 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems

Drinking water sources:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Important information about arsenic: Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the arsenic levels are being monitored quarterly. We are constantly evaluating alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.